AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS, COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS IN ASCENDING ORDER WITH STATUS INDICATOR

Please cancel claims 3, 27 and 39 without prejudice or disclaimer to its underlying subject matter and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for improving a biodegradable resin material in elastic modulus, wherein said material is comprised mainly of a biodegradable resin,

said method comprising a step of irradiating said biodegradable resin material with a microwave for 1 to 10 minutes.

2. (Original) A method for improving a biodegradable resin material in elastic modulus, wherein said material is comprised mainly of a biodegradable resin, said method comprising the steps of:

injecting said biodegradable resin material into a mold to form an injection-molded product, and

irradiating said biodegradable resin material in the form of the injection-molded product in said mold with a microwave.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein said biodegradable resin material is irradiated with a microwave ~~is~~for 1 to 10 minutes.

5. (Currently Amended) A~~The~~ method ~~according to claim 1,~~ for improving a biodegradable resin material in elastic modulus, wherein said material is comprised mainly of a biodegradable resin,

said method comprising a step of irradiating said biodegradable resin material with a microwave, ~~wherein~~ said biodegradable resin ~~is~~being an aliphatic polyester resin.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein said biodegradable resin is an aliphatic polyester resin.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein said aliphatic polyester resin is polylactic acid.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein said aliphatic polyester resin is polylactic acid.

9. (Currently Amended) A~~The~~ method ~~according to claim 1,~~ for improving a biodegradable resin material in elastic modulus, wherein said material is comprised mainly of a biodegradable resin,

said method comprising a step of irradiating said biodegradable resin material with a microwave, ~~wherein~~ said biodegradable resin material ~~contains~~further comprising an additive for suppressing hydrolysis.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein said biodegradable resin material contains an additive for suppressing hydrolysis.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein said additive for suppressing hydrolysis is a carbodiimide compound.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said additive for suppressing hydrolysis is a carbodiimide compound.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein said additive for suppressing hydrolysis is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2.0 % by weight, with regard to the weight of said aliphatic polyester resin.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said additive for suppressing hydrolysis is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2.0 % by weight, with regard to the weight of said aliphatic polyester resin.

15. (Currently Amended) A~~The~~ method ~~according to claim 1,~~ for improving a biodegradable resin material in elastic modulus, wherein said material is comprised mainly of a

biodegradable resin,

said method comprising a step of irradiating said biodegradable resin material with a microwave,~~wherein~~ said biodegradable resin material ~~contains~~further comprising mica.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein said biodegradable resin material contains mica.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein said mica is synthetic mica.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 16, wherein said mica is synthetic mica.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein said synthetic mica is present in an amount of 0.5 to 20.0 % by weight, with regard to the weight of said biodegradable resin.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein said synthetic mica is present in an amount of 0.5 to 20.0 % by weight, with regard to the weight of said biodegradable resin.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein said mica is natural mica.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 16, wherein said mica is natural mica.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 21, wherein said natural mica is present in an amount of 5.0 to 20.0 % by weight, with regard to the weight of said biodegradable resin.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein said natural mica is present in an amount of 5.0 to 20.0 % by weight, with regard to the weight of said biodegradable resin.

25. (Currently Amended) A biodegradable resin composition comprising a biodegradable resin and natural mica, wherein said natural mica is present in an amount of 5.0 to 30.0 % by weight, with regard to the weight of the biodegradable resin material.

26. (Currently Amended) A~~The~~ biodegradable resin composition ~~according to claim 25,~~

comprising a biodegradable resin and natural mica, wherein said natural mica is agglomerated mica obtained by granulation using one of an acrylic resin, an epoxy resin, and a urethane resin as a binder.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A~~The~~ biodegradable resin composition ~~according to claim 25,~~ comprising a biodegradable resin and natural mica, wherein said natural mica has an average particle diameter of 15 to 140 μm.

29. (Original) The biodegradable resin composition according to claim 25, wherein said biodegradable resin is an aliphatic polyester resin.

30. (Original) The biodegradable resin composition according to claim 29, wherein said aliphatic polyester resin is polylactic acid.

31. (Currently Amended) A~~The~~ biodegradable resin composition ~~according to claim 25,~~ comprising a biodegradable resin, natural mica and ~~further comprising~~ an additive for suppressing hydrolysis of said biodegradable resin.

32. (Original) The biodegradable resin composition according to claim 31, wherein said additive for suppressing hydrolysis of said biodegradable resin is a carbodiimide compound.

33. (Original) The biodegradable resin composition according to claim 31, wherein said additive for suppressing hydrolysis of said biodegradable resin is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2.0 % by weight, with regard to the weight of said aliphatic polyester resin.

34. (Original) A housing material comprising a biodegradable resin composition which comprises a biodegradable resin and natural mica.

35. (Original) The housing material according to claim 34, wherein said biodegradable resin composition further comprises an additive for suppressing hydrolysis of said biodegradable

resin.

36. (Original) A method for improving a biodegradable resin material in elastic modulus, wherein said material is comprised mainly of a biodegradable resin,

said method comprising a step of adding natural mica to said biodegradable resin material.

37. (Original) The method according to claim 36, wherein the addition of said natural mica is conducted by kneading together at 150 to 200°C said biodegradable resin material and said natural mica in an amount of 10.0 to 30.0 % by weight, with regard to the weight of said biodegradable resin material.

38. (Currently Amended) A biodegradable resin composition comprising synthetic mica as a crystal nucleating agent and an aliphatic polyester resin, wherein said synthetic mica is present in an amount of 0.5 to 20.0 % by weight, with regard to the weight of said aliphatic polyester resin.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Original) The biodegradable resin composition according to claim 38, wherein said aliphatic polyester resin is polylactic acid.

41. (Currently Amended) A~~The~~ biodegradable resin composition ~~according to claim 38,~~ comprising synthetic mica as a crystal nucleating agent and an aliphatic polyester resin, wherein said synthetic mica is non-swellable synthetic mica.

42. (Currently Amended) A~~The~~ biodegradable resin composition ~~according to claim 38,~~ comprising synthetic mica as a crystal nucleating agent and an aliphatic polyester resin, wherein said synthetic mica has an average particle diameter of 1 to 10 μm.

43. (Currently Amended) A~~The~~ biodegradable resin composition ~~according to claim 38,~~ comprising synthetic mica as a crystal nucleating agent, an aliphatic polyester resin and ~~further~~

~~comprising~~ an additive for suppressing hydrolysis of said biodegradable resin.

44. (Original) The biodegradable resin composition according to claim 43, wherein said additive for suppressing hydrolysis of said biodegradable resin is a carbodiimide compound.

45. (Original) The biodegradable resin composition according to claim 43, wherein said additive for suppressing hydrolysis of said biodegradable resin is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2.0 % by weight, with regard to the weight of said aliphatic polyester resin.

46. (Currently Amended) A~~The~~ biodegradable resin composition ~~according to claim 38,~~ comprising synthetic mica as a crystal nucleating agent, an aliphatic polyester resin and~~further comprising~~ natural mica.

47. (Original) The biodegradable resin composition according to claim 46, wherein said natural mica is present in an amount of 5.0 to 20.0 % by weight, with regard to the weight of said aliphatic polyester resin.

48. (Original) A housing material comprising a biodegradable resin composition which comprises synthetic mica as a crystal nucleating agent and an aliphatic polyester resin.

49. (Original) A method for producing a biodegradable resin composition, said method comprising kneading together at 150 to 200°C an aliphatic polyester resin and synthetic mica in an amount of 0.5 to 20.0 % by weight, with regard to the weight of said aliphatic polyester resin.

50. (Original) A method for improving a biodegradable resin composition in elastic modulus, wherein said composition comprises synthetic mica as a crystal nucleating agent and an aliphatic polyester resin,

said method comprising a step of allowing said biodegradable resin composition to stand for 30 to 180 seconds while heating at 80 to 130°C.

51. (Original) A method for improving a biodegradable resin composition in elastic modulus, wherein said composition comprises synthetic mica as a crystal nucleating agent and

an aliphatic polyester resin, said method comprising the steps of:

injecting said biodegradable resin composition into a mold to form an injection-molded product, and

heating said injection-molded product in said mold at 80 to 130°C for 30 to 180 seconds.

52. (Original) A method for improving a biodegradable resin composition in elastic modulus, wherein said composition comprises synthetic mica as a crystal nucleating agent and an aliphatic polyester resin, said method comprising the steps of:

injecting said biodegradable resin composition into a mold whose inner surface is heated by radio frequency induction heating to form an injection-molded product, and

heating said injection-molded product in said mold at 80 to 130°C for 30 to 180 seconds.

53. (Original) A biodegradable resin composition comprising an aliphatic polyester resin, an organic nucleating agent, and natural mica.

54. (Original) The biodegradable resin composition according to claim 53, wherein said organic nucleating agent is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of an aliphatic carboxylic acid amide and an aliphatic carboxylic acid ester.

55. (Original) The biodegradable resin composition according to claim 53, wherein said natural mica is present in an amount of 5.0 to 20.0 % by weight, with regard to the weight of said aliphatic polyester resin.

56. (Original) The biodegradable resin composition according to claim 53, wherein said organic nucleating agent is present in an amount of 0.5 to 5.0 % by weight, with regard to the weight of said aliphatic polyester resin.

57. (Original) The biodegradable resin composition according to claim 53, wherein said aliphatic polyester resin is polylactic acid.

58. (Original) The biodegradable resin composition according to claim 53, further comprising an additive for suppressing hydrolysis.

59. (Original) The biodegradable resin composition according to claim 58, wherein said additive for suppressing hydrolysis is a carbodiimide compound.

60. (Original) The biodegradable resin composition according to claim 58, wherein said additive for suppressing hydrolysis is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2.0 % by weight, with regard to the weight of said aliphatic polyester resin.

61. (Original) A housing material comprising a biodegradable resin composition which comprises an aliphatic polyester resin, an organic nucleating agent, and natural mica.

62. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a biodegradable resin composition, wherein said composition comprises an aliphatic polyester resin, an organic nucleating agent, and natural mica ,

said method comprising kneading together at 150 to 200°C ~~an~~said aliphatic polyester resin, said natural mica in an amount of 5.0 to 20.0 % by weight, based on the weight of said aliphatic polyester resin, and ~~an~~said organic nucleating agent.

63. (Original) A method for improving a biodegradable resin composition in elastic modulus, wherein said composition comprises an aliphatic polyester resin, an organic nucleating agent, and natural mica,

said method comprising a step of allowing said biodegradable resin composition to stand for 30 to 180 seconds while heating at 80 to 130°C.

64. (Original) A method for improving a biodegradable resin composition in elastic modulus, wherein said composition comprises an aliphatic polyester resin, an organic nucleating agent, and natural mica,

said method comprising the steps of:

injecting said biodegradable resin composition into a mold to form an injection-molded product, and

heating said injection-molded product in said mold at 80 to 130°C for 30 to 180 seconds.

65. (Original) A method for improving a biodegradable resin composition in elastic modulus, wherein said composition comprises an aliphatic polyester resin, an organic nucleating agent, and natural mica,

said method comprising the steps of:

injecting said biodegradable resin composition into a mold whose inner surface is heated by radio frequency induction heating to form an injection-molded product, and

heating said injection-molded product in said mold at 80 to 130°C for 30 to 180 seconds.